

The legend may perhaps contain a reminiscence of real **dynastical** of their **struggles** which attended an attempt to change the right of contest **ofc»**, **i f m j** may be a succession from the female to the male line. **J^or under a**

Tenceof ruiE of female kinshiP the heif tO the thrOlie is
dyna^dc late king's brother, or the son of the late king's sister, while struggles. **under a mle of male y^ip t h e h e i r** to the throne is the late king's son. In the legend of Osiris the rival heirs are Set and Horus, Set being the late king's brother, and Horus the late king's son ; though Horus indeed united both claims to the crown, being the son of the king's sister as well as of the king. A similar attempt to shift the line of succession seems to have given rise to similar contests at Rome.¹ Osiris re- Thus according to what seems to have been the **kuJfin g^{en}ral** native tradition Osiris was a good and beloved tradition **king** of Egypt, who suffered a violent death but rose from the dead and was henceforth worshipped as a deity. In harmony with this tradition he was regularly represented by sculptors and painters in human and regal form as a dead king, swathed in the wrappings of a mummy, but wearing on his head a kingly crown and grasping in one of his hands, which were left free from the bandages, a kingly sceptre.² Two cities above all others were associated with his myth or memory. One of them was Busiris in Lower Egypt, which claimed to possess his backbone ; the other was Abydos in Upper Egypt, which gloried in The tomb the possession of his head.³ Encircled by the nimbus of * **ea<^ 7^{et} Hving god**, Abydos, originally an obscure place, became from the end of the Old

Kingdom the
holiest spot in Egypt; his tomb there would
seem to have
been to the Egyptians what the Church of
the Holy

1 *The Magic Art and the Evolution
of Kings*, ii. 290⁸²⁻⁸⁵; A. Erman, *Die ägyptische Re-*

81, 210, 212, 214, 290, ii. I, 2, 8-13,

2 A. Wiedemann, *Religion of the ^ ^, 2 pp. ^ i* 23,
no; A. Wiedemann,
Ancient Egyptians, p. 217. For
^{^*}>*Reh&onoftheA*w*itEsyj>tians*,
details see E. A. Wallis Budge, *Osiris* P' §9 5 Eel. Meyer,
GeschichU des
and the Egyptian Resurrection, i. *Altertumss* 1. 2. pp. 70,
96, 97- It appears to be now generally held that
³ J. H. Breasted, *History of the Osiris* was at Busiris, but
that at Abydos
Ancient Egyptians (London, 1908), p. the god found a second
home, which in
61; *id., Development of Religion and time* eclipsed the old
one in glory.
Thought in Ancient Egypt, p. 38; According to
Professors Ed. Meyer
E. A. [Wallis Budge, *Osiris and* and A. Erman, the
god whom Osiris
the Egyptian Resurrection ^ I. 37, 67, displaced at Abydos was
Anubis.